



American Citizen Services Unit  
U.S. Embassy Santo Domingo  
**Warden Message**



**TO:** Consular Wardens  
**FROM:** ACS Unit  
**DATE:** 27 June 2006  
**SUBJECT:** Updated Absentee Voting Information

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As part of our effort to provide you with updated information on voting issues, the following message is being re-broadcast for your information. Please circulate this to your constituents. If you have any questions regarding voting overseas, please contact Michael Benton at (809) 731-4248 or BentonML2@state.gov.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT THE 2006 U.S. ELECTIONS**

All American citizens are reminded that 2006 is an election year in the United States. Every seat in the U.S. House of Representatives and one-third of the seats in the U.S. Senate are being contested this year. Overseas citizens are eligible to participate in primary, run-off, and special elections that occur throughout the year, as well as the general elections in November.

We strongly encourage you to register to vote and/or request absentee ballots as early in the year as possible to ensure that you will receive all ballots for which you are eligible. Should questions or problems occur, you would still be able to address them in time to vote in the 2006 general elections.

**The following is the basic absentee voting process:**

- You complete an application form (see below) and send it to local election officials in the U.S.
- The local official approves your request, or contacts you for further information
- The local official sends you an absentee ballot
- You vote the ballot and send it back in time to meet your state's deadline

**The official US Government website** for overseas absentee voting assistance is the Federal Voting Assistance Program website at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov). It has a wealth of information about absentee voting, including the downloadable absentee ballot

application, state-specific instructions for completing the form, links to state and local officials, and a downloadable emergency ballot.

**Overseas citizens groups help people to vote.** We encourage you to contact Democrats Abroad, Republicans Abroad or other American citizens groups or organizations for assistance in registering to vote and requesting absentee ballots. Links to these groups are at <http://www.fvap.gov/links/ocitlinks.html>.

**To register to vote and to request an absentee ballot,** download the Federal Post Card Application at <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/onlinefpca.html>. You can also obtain this form from overseas American citizens groups or from the U.S. Embassy/Consulate. Fill it out and send it in, following the guidelines for your state. A postage-paid envelope template, valid if you are using the U.S. postal system, is available at <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/returnenvelope.html>.

**Each state has different voting procedures.** Information about your state's procedures is available at <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/vag/vagchapter3.html>. Information about your state's deadlines to register and vote is available at <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/primarycal.html>. A calendar of election dates is available at <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/primarycal.html>.

**States sometimes make last-minute changes.** There may be late changes to your state's voting calendar, procedures or deadlines. When these occur, the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) will issue a News Release. News Releases are available at <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/releases.html>.

**Be an educated voter.** Non-partisan information about candidates, their voting records, and their positions on issues is widely available and easy to obtain via the Internet. Use the links appearing on the Federal Voting Assistance Program website at <http://www.fvap.gov/links/otherlinks.html>, or choose any one of several search engines to locate articles and information.

**An emergency ballot is available.** If the ballot receipt deadline is approaching, and you have not yet received the blank ballot from local officials, you can download an emergency ballot, write in the names of the candidates and the offices for which they are running, and send it back in time to meet your state's ballot receipt deadline. The emergency ballot (SF-186, Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot, or FWAB) is available on the Internet at <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/forms.html>.

Additionally, the Voting Assistance Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Santo Domingo is available to answer questions about absentee voting. To contact the Voting Assistance Officer, call (809) 731-4248 or send an e-mail to [BentonML2@state.gov](mailto:BentonML2@state.gov). Look for notices from the Embassy throughout the year relating to the 2006 elections.

Americans living or traveling in the Dominican Republic are encouraged to register with the U.S. Embassy through the State Department's travel registration website,

<https://travelregistration.state.gov>. **American citizens who have previously registered with the U.S. Embassy do not need to register again.**

For updated information on the security situation in the Dominican Republic, please contact the American Citizens Services (ACS) Unit of the U.S. Embassy. The Consular Section Embassy is located at the corner of Cesar Nicolas Penson Street and Máximo Gómez Avenue, Santo Domingo, D.R.; telephone 809-731-4294; after hours emergency telephone 809-221-2171; ACS unit fax 809-689-6142; e-mail [acssantodom@state.gov](mailto:acssantodom@state.gov); web page [www.usemb.gov.do](http://www.usemb.gov.do).

Updated information on travel in Santo Domingo may be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States, or from overseas, 1-202-501-4444. For further information please consult the Consular Information Sheet for Santo Domingo, which is available via the Internet at <http://travel.state.gov>.